Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 08300 191712Z ACTION ARA-14

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FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ALEXANDER FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PQ, OVIP(ALEXANDER, CLIFFORD L.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF THE ARMY CLIFFORD L. ALEXANDER

REF: STATE 272756

1. I THINK THAT YOU WOULD FIND IT VERY USEFUL TO SPEND SOME TIME IN THE REPUBLIC IN ORDER TO GET AN IDEA OF THE ISTHMUS "FROM THIS SIDE OF FOURTH OF JULY AVENUE". I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ARRANGE A PROGRAM FOR YOU FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14. WHILE I HOPE YOU FEEL FREE TO MAKE YOUR OWN SUGGESTIONS, ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE AN INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE DAY:

A. A DAY IN COLON. HEMMED IN BY THE CANAL ZONE,
AFFLICTED BY PANAMA'S HIGHEST RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND
CRIME, AND ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED, COLON VIVIDLY EXEMPLIFIES PANAMA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. ON SUCH A
TRIP YOU COULD VISIT THE FREE PORT AND HEAR PANAMA'S
PLANS FOR A CONTAINER PORT AND OTHER ECONOMIC DEDEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF THE CANAL, IF THE TREATY IS
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 08300 191712Z

APPROVED. I WOULD BE GLAD TO ASK PRESIDENT LAKAS, WHO IS FROM COLON (OR IF HE CANNOT MAKE IT, SOME OTHER KNOWLEDGABLE OFFICIAL), TO SHOW YOU AROUND.

B. VISIT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PANAMANIANS IN THE CITY. SUCH PEOPLE AS ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH, FREE LABOR LEADER DEAN BUTCHER, PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA, PANA-

MANIAN BUSINESSMEN, AMERICANS LIVING IN PANAMA CITY (WHOSE VIEWPOINT IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE ZONE), AND THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALL BE INTERESTING CONTRIBUTORS TO DIALOGUE.

C. A TRIP TO AN INTERIOR TOWN, PERHAPS DAVID.
THIS HAS THE DISADVANTAGE THAT A GOOD BIT OF THE DAY
WOULD BE SPENT IN TRAVEL, BUT WOULD NEVERTHELESS OFFER
A CHANCE TO SEE AND TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF A PART OF
THE COUNTRY WHICH IS LESS OBSESSED WITH THE CANAL
PROBLEM.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WILL BE SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIAL VISITORS IN TOWN THE WEEK YOU WILL BE HERE, SO I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE AS MUCH OF YOU AS I WOULD LIKE, BUT I REITERATE MY WELCOME TO YOU AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE A DAY OFF TO SEE PANAMA. LET ME KNOWN YOUR PLANS. WARMERST REGARDS.

JORDEN

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Subject: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF THE ARMY CLIFFORD L. ALEXANDER

TAGS: OVIP, PN, PQ, (ALEXANDER, CLIFFORD L)

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